

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 2

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U.S. GETS TOUGH IN CAMBODIA

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WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration, backed by Democrats in Congress, will dramatically step up its anti-Communist military activities in Cambodia today.

The tough new stand will include a series of highly visible moves to strengthen rebel groups and weaken the puppet regime installed by Vietnam.

Secretary of State George Shultz is scheduled to visit a Cambodian rebel camp on Thailand's border today to highlight the administration's increasing role in supporting anti-Communist rebels fighting the Vietnamese army from secret bases along the Cambodian border.

As Shultz visits the camp, the Democratic-controlled House is expected to

pass a \$5 million military-aid package — originally proposed by Rep. Steven Solarz (D-Brooklyn) — designed to provide the first no-strings-attached overt funding by the U.S. government to the Cambodian resistance.

Administration and congressional officials say the \$5 million would augment millions in covert funding that the CIA has been funneling to the rebels through Thailand since 1982.

The new campaign by the administration represents the most extensive involvement by the U.S. in Cambodia since the Vietnam war and is part of the administration's overall strategy of challenging Soviet-sponsored totali-

tarian regimes throughout the world.

"The aim is to increase the cost of Vietnamese occupation until the Vietnamese decide that a political settlement is in their best interest," said one administration official.

The political solution the administration has in mind includes a withdrawal of Vietnamese forces and "self determination" of the Cambodian people in governmental representation.

Two non-Communist rebel groups — the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and the National Sihanoukist Army — are the beneficiaries of the U.S. aid package.

The two groups, headed by former

Cambodian leaders who were ousted by the brutal Khmer Rouge revolution in 1975, have been operating from secret bases on the Thai-Cambodian border.

Their performance, however, has been lackluster so far, according to knowledgeable sources, as the 25,000-strong resistance has failed to adopt the kind of guerrilla warfare tactics necessary to put real pressure on the Vietnamese army.

But in recent weeks CIA Director William Casey and other top intelligence officials have visited the camps and developed new ways to allow the two resistance groups to adopt the "classical guerrilla strategy."

